

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continuation Application of:)
)
Ronald Adams et al.)
)
Application No.: To be Assigned) Prior Group Art Unit: 3739
)
Filed: December 3, 2003) Prior Examiner: J. W. MULCAHY
)
For: CONTROLLABLE ENDOSCOPIC)
SHEATH APPARATUS AND)
RELATED METHOD OF USE)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the filing of the above-referenced application.

Applications filed after June 30, 2003 no longer require copies of U.S. Patents and Published Patent Applications listed on the Form PTO 1449.

Copies of DE 197 49 687 A1, Japanese Abstract No. 63292935, and Derwent Abstract of DE 197 49 687 A1 were previously made of record in a prior application, application no. 09/725,814, filing date November 30, 2003, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Copies of the rest of the listed foreign and other documents are attached.

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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached Form PTO 1449.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the DE 42 28 459 A1, an English language version of a search report from the European Patent Office in a corresponding application citing this document and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

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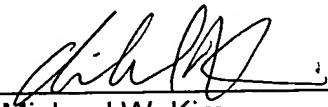
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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 2, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	6530.0067-02	Appln. No.	Unknown
Applicant	Ronald ADAMS et al.		
Filing Date	December 2, 2003	Group:	Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
		3,896,793	7/1975	Mitsui et al.			
		4,245,624	1/1981	Komiya			
		4,285,376	8/1981	Ausnit.			
		4,646,722	3/1987	Silverstein et al.			
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		4,741,326	5/1988	Sidall et al.			
		4,886,049	12/1989	Darras.			
		5,025,778	6/1991	Silverstein et al.			
		5,100,420	3/1992	Green et al.			
		5,171,222	12/1992	Euteneuer et al.			
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		5,226,876	7/1993	Filipi et al.			
		5,259,366	11/1993	Reydel et al.			
		5,345,937	9/1994	Middleman et al.			
		5,383,849	1/1995	Johlin			
		5,503,616	4/1996	Jones			
		5,607,435	3/1997	Sachdeva et al.			
		5,662,585	9/1997	Willis et al.			
		5,746,692	5/1998	Bacich et al.			
		5,749,828	5/1998	Solomon et al.			
		6,066,090	5/2000	Yoon			
		6,126,633	10/2000	Kaji et al.			
		6,352,503	3/2002	Matsui et al.			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
		42 28 459 A1	3/1994	Germany			No
		0 667 126 A1	8/1995	EPO			
		197 49 687 A1	5/1998	Germany			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	Japanese Abstract No. 63292935
	Derwent Abstract of DE 197 49 687 A1
	International Preliminary Examination Report dated April 25, 2001

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce